

WE CLAIM:

1. A shearable connector for joining two coupling members and transferring a desired torque therebetween, said shearable connector comprising an elongate bolt element having:
- 5 a middle portion forming a shearable sector of a given shear strength;
- a shoulder element on either side of said middle portion for abutting a respective coupling member to provide a pre-set clearance between at least a portion of said coupling members when joined; and,
- 10 an end portion extending from each of said shoulder elements and having a threaded part for receiving a nut member thereon for clamping said bolt element to said coupling members.
2. The connector of claim 1 wherein said end portion includes an intermediate portion between said shoulder element and said threaded part adapted to slideably engage said coupling member in a desired orientation.
- 15 2. The connector of claim 2 wherein said intermediate portion includes opposed planar portions to prevent rotation of said bolt element during installation and removal of said nut member.
- 20 3. The connector of claims 1, 2 or 3 further including a washer element having an aperture therein for insertion onto said end portion between said nut member and said coupling member, wherein the location of said aperture in said washer element may be changed to alter the radial spacing of said bolt element from the radial centre of said coupling members.
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5. The connector of claim 4 wherein said shoulder element has a greater diameter than that of said middle and end portions for sandwiching said coupling member between said shoulder element and said washer element.

5 Sub A2 > 6. A shear bolt for joining coupling members comprising:

an elongate core element having a first portion forming a shear area of a given shear strength, a second portion on each side of said first portion forming a shoulder of larger diameter than said first portion and adapted to provide a pre-set spacing between opposed coupling members at least in the vicinity of said shear bolt, and a third portion extending from each of said shoulders adapted to receive a fastening member to secure said core element with said coupling members.

7. The shear bolt of claim 6 wherein said third portion includes an shaped part adjacent said second portion for slideably engaging a coupling member transversely thereto.

8. The shear bolt of claim 7 wherein said shaped part includes opposed planar surfaces to avoid rotation of said core element during installation and removal of said fastening member.

9. The shear bolt of claims 6, 7 or 8 further including a washer element having an opening for insertion onto said third portion and adapted to register with a correspondingly shaped recess in a coupling member, wherein the location of said opening in said washer element provides a means of adjusting the spacing of said bolt element from a given radial reference point of said coupling members.

Sub A5> 10. A shear bolt coupling assembly comprising:
 a first coupling member with a first radially extending flange;
 a second coupling member located coaxially with said first coupling member
 and having a second radially extending flange; and,
 5 an elongate shear bolt having a first portion forming a shear area of a given
 shear strength, a second portion on each side of said first portion forming a shoulder
 of larger diameter than said first portion for abutting each of said first and second
 flanges to provide a desired clearance therebetween, and a third portion extending
 10 from each of said shoulders adapted to receive a fastening member to secure said
 shear bolt with said first and second flanges, thereby securely connecting said first
 and second coupling members for transferring a shear force therebetween up to said
 given shear strength.

Sub A6> 11. The assembly of claim 10 wherein said third portion includes a shaped part
 15 adjacent said second portion for slideably engaging a respective first or second flange
 transversely to a longitudinal centreline of said first and second coupling members.

12. The assembly of claim 11 wherein said shaped part includes radially opposed
 planar surfaces adapted to engage a respective first or second flange to avoid rotation
 20 of said shear bolt during installation and removal of said fastening member.

Sub A7> 13. The assembly of claims 10, 11 or 12 further including a washer element
 having an opening for insertion onto said third portion and adapted to register with a
 correspondingly shaped recess in a respective first or second flange, wherein the
 25 location of said opening in said washer element provides a means of adjusting the
 radial spacing of said shear bolt from a given radial reference point of said first and
 second coupling members.

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